(14) CMD, Indian Road Construction Corporation Limited.

(15) CMD, National Projects Construction Corporation Limited.

Cost of war between India and Pakistan

3052. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an estimate published in an American Magazine and quoted in the National Herald of June 11th, 1990 about the cost of a conventional war between India and Pakistan; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government pursue their policy of peaceful relations with its neighbours, while maintaining full defence preparedness to counter any threat to the nation's security.

NAM Science and Technology Centre in New Delhi

3053. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the NAM Science and Technology Centre was established at New Delhi almost a year ago as reported in Financial Express dated 4th March, 1990;

(b) the number of NAM Countries which have joined the said centre and actually paid their dues so far;

(c) whether the progress made so far has been satisfactory; if not, the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken; and

(d) whether the Centre would be made fully operational and shortage of funds would not hamper its growth the third world and the NAM Countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) Yes Sir, The Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and other Developing Countries was established in New Delhi about a year and a half ago, with the convening of the first meeting of the Governing Council of the Centre in New Delhi in March 1989.

(b) 32 countries have so far joined the Centre. Full membership dues were paid by two countries in the year 1989-90 while during the current year (1990-91) full dues have so far been paid by one country and partial dues by another.

(c) and (d) The Centre is in its formative stage. While considering the complexities associated with organising a multilateral international forum of this nature, the progress can be considered satisfactory. However, in order to accelerate matters further, the Governing Council requested the Member Countries to make appropriate arrangements for transfer of funds for the payment of their membership dues to the accounts of the Centre, and stressed the importance of attention being focussed on specific time targeted programmes without the resources being spread too thin. The scope of the Centre's activities will grow with the increasing participation of the Member Countries. In this process, the cooperation of the Member Countries will be an essential consideration. In addition, other countries have been invited to join the Centre as its members. India as the host country is providing its share to set up and ensure the running of the Centre.

R and D work on dehydration of flowers by NBBI

3054. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be plea-

sed to state:

(a) whether NBRI, Lucknow has been engaged in R and D work on dehaydration of flowers and foliage which was also exhibited at Kerala in September, 1989;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating commercial implications and relevance of the findings; and

(c) whether similar work is being done in any other CSIR/ICAR laboratories; if so, the manner in which this is being coordinated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Dehydrated flowers and foliage form excellent raw-materials for making several saleable items like greeting cards, wall hangings, landscape and floristic arrangements in sealed transparent containers etc. Cottage scale production of these items can come up with institutional support.

(c) CSIR Complex, Palampur has taken up extension of this technical knowhow, as a result of which 150 women entrepreneurs have been trained. The extension work has further facilitated the setting up of 10 units during the last 3 years. No R&D work is being done in this regard by ICAR Institutes/Laboratories.

R and D work on drinking water by Industrial Toxicology Research Centre, Lucknow

3055. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that R and D work is being carried out on Drinking Water quality at Industrial Toxicology Research Centre, Lucknow for the past several years;

(b) if so, the salient features of the observations/assessment made at GFRU, Directors Laboratories for Ganga Action Plan and under the Technology Mission;

(c) whether there is a close interaction amongst these units if so, the details of joint meetings held, if any, indicating when this was last held;

(d) whether the Director ITRC is also the Project Coordinator of this Project; and

(e) whether the Director is also personally incharge of any other R and D projects, apart from his duties outside Lucknow, and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) and (b) Industrial Toxicology Research Centre (ITRC), as well as other laboratories of the CSIR, have been carrying out drinking water quality studies as a part of the drinking water mission. A salient feature of the observations so far made is that there is no major problem of chemical contamination of water sources studied at GERU, but the data indicate bacteriological contamination in several samples.

(c) Yes, Sir; a number of meetings have been held amongst the groups concerned with the monitoring and coordination of the programme of work. The last meeting in this regard took place on 14.5.1990.

(d) For all multi-disciplinary and inter-institutional studies/programmes undertaken in ITRC including this project, Director, ITRC coordinates the activities for smooth and effective interaction.

(e) Director, ITRC is personally incharge of R&D projects on preventive toxicology, immuno-biology and environmental microbiology.

Pollution of Ganga at Kanpur

3056 SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ganga continues to be polluted at